

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

Language can never be separated from human life. There is no action and interaction without language. Language is an instrument of communication. Without using language, people cannot communicate to each other. That is why language plays an important part of communication. People use language to convey their ideas, to grasp new facts, to answer question, and also to ask a question. A communication will be successfully delivered if the speakers and the listeners have knowledge about the things which are being talked about.

There are many languages in the world, for example, *Bahasa Indonesia*, English, French, German, Mandarin and etc. Every language has its specification in pronunciation, word, grammar, and the usage. Some countries such as China, Japan, Korea, Germany, France, Ukraine, and Russia, have special forms or letters. The differences of forms are influenced by the culture including history, environment, belief and even geography. In some places, verbal language is more preferable to use rather than written language. It is because people find that the verbal language is sometimes difficult to be written in alphabet.

All the differences do not change the function of language itself. They have a function as a communication means. People use their language which are spelled and pronounced in their own way to interact with each other.

Sometimes, in a society, there are several styles of language which are performed by people to communicate to each other. The styles are performed by a particular group of people. A particular group of people who use the same speech signal is called a speech community. Every membership of a community is signaled by sign. The membership can be identified by the language which is used. The words which are spoken by the members indicate the membership of one community. Therefore, people who do not belong to the group are difficult to understand. Some expressions are accessible only for the member of the group.

To make an effective or efficient communication, people make their own words or terms. In terms of effectiveness, people use several ways to mention long expressions. Deleting some parts of word or phrase, pronouncing the first initial letters and combining a set of words are the examples of making effective communication. In some cases, they can make new words or terms in order to prevent out-groupers know the conversation. It may occur in military field. The secret expressions are used to exclude out groupers or enemy.

In daily life, people often use some technical terms, for example the using of term *Teflon* rather than “frying pan”. Actually, *Teflon* is well known as a brand of kitchen equipment. However, to ease a conversation, people

change it. Holmes (1992: 245) says that language varies according to its uses as well as its users, according to where it is used and to whom, as well as according to who is using it. It relates with Chaika (1982: 8) who says that language is not static and it can change in some ways its speakers want it to, or need it to, and as soon as they wish.

By the time, language changes together with the need of speakers. One of the varieties of language is in term of *jargon*. Jargon is a language variety which is used by people who work in a particular area or who have a common interest, for example, lawyer, computer programmer, sport commentator, musician, and etc. All of them have special terms and expressions that may not easy to be understood by outsiders. Jargon is used by a group of people in a multilayer society.

One can find a lot of language varieties in society especially sport. Sport is highly characterized by jargon to reach the efficiency of communication. In sport field, jargon is often used to deliver complicated information in a simple or brief way. The word “*Strike*” in baseball means a player has failed to hit the ball. In the other fields, “*Strike*” has different meaning. Sometimes, it makes a misconception for people who do not belong to sport. They may translate the word to the literal meaning. Sport jargons have special interpretations. They attract the researcher to conduct this research.

Sport is one of the fields in which jargon has important role in the delivering and conveying some sport’s actions. Then, baseball is one of the

sports in which jargon is applied. It is a competitive sport which very popular in North America, especially the United States. Baseball is a sport with many players and supported by fanatic spectators in a stadium. Thousands of chairs in the stadium are fulfilled by the spectators. *Money Ball* is a sport-theme film. The film is starred by several famous actors, such as Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill, and Philip Seymour. The film is chosen as the object of this research because it contains baseball jargons. Unconsciously, jargon is used everyday in every occasion including sport.

## **B. Research Focus**

In accordance with the background of the study above, the film contains phenomena of language which can be analyzed from the perspective of sociolinguistics. The film can be analyzed through the language varieties, such as jargon, register, and slang. Jargon mostly occurs in the dialogs. The characters in the film often speak in special terms to ease their communication. In term of jargon, the formation of jargon also can be identified by using word-formation processes. The processes are coinage, borrowing, compounding, blending, clipping, backformation, conversion, acronym, derivation, and multiple processes. The functions of jargon also can be analyzed since it can create meaning's misconception. Baseball's players often give some instructions or mention some actions in special terms. The special terms are only understood among the players and people who involve in baseball.

Besides the language varieties, the film also can be analyzed through language and gender analysis. The dialogs occur in the film contain some differences of the use of language among the characters since the use of language differs between men and women. Mostly, the characters in the film are dominated by men. The conversation among men also can be analyzed through the use of taboo language. Sometimes they express some terms which are uncommonly used by women.

However, to limit the scope of this research, the researcher chooses word-formation processes and the functions of jargon as the objectives of the research.

In accordance with the limitation, the formulations of the problems are as follows.

1. What are the word formation processes of sport jargon which is used by the characters in the *Money Ball*?
2. What are the functions of sport jargon which is used by the characters in the *Money Ball*?

### **C. Objectives of the Study**

According to the formulation of the problems above, the objectives of the study are:

1. to analyze the word formation processes of sport jargon that occur in the *Money Ball*, and
2. to describe the functions of sport jargon which occur in the *Money Ball*.

#### **D. Significance of the Study**

This study hopefully can give contributions in the study of linguistics, especially in sociolinguistics. The significance of the study is as follows.

1. For readers in Yogyakarta State University, the results of the study are expected to enrich the knowledge about sociolinguistic phenomenon.
2. The results of this research are useful for students of English Language and Literature Study Program as a reference in conducting researches related to sociolinguistics or language varieties, especially jargon.